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FARM BUSINESS FACTS

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Broadcast by E. J. Rowell, Agricultural Marketing Service, during the Department of Agriculture portion of the National Farm and Home Hour, Monday, March 18, 1940 over 90 stations associated with the National Broadcasting Company's Blue Network.

--ooOoo--

KADDERLY:

Our regular reporter from the Agricultural Marketing Service, E. J. "Mike" Rowell, is with us today to give us the highlights of several reports issued recently by that Service. On the list we find the hatchery report, a report production of eggs, and one covering cold storage stocks.

Mike, let's proceed in that order. First, the hatchery report.

ROWELL:

This hatchery report is based on information supplied by nearly 550 hatcheries. Each of those hatcheries has a capacity of more than 10,000 eggs. According to the information which they supplied, only about 60 percent as many chicks were hatched last month as during February in 1939. These same hatcheries did not set as many eggs during February of this year either, as they did during February of last year. The decrease in eggs set in February was about 13 percent.

KADDERLY:

Judging from the last statement, it doesn't look as though the production of chicks in March would be as large as it was last year.

ROWELL:

That's right, Wallace. We don't expect as many chicks will be hatched this month as were hatched during the same month last year. What's more, hatcherymen are setting only about as many eggs as are needed to fill their orders. The hatcherymen are not taking chances on selling a lot more chicks than they have orders for. You see egg prices are lower and the feed-egg ratio is unfavorable. Farmers don't buy as many chicks when conditions are like that. On March 1 farmers had ordered some 12 percent fewer baby chicks than they had a year ago.

KADDERLY:

So much for chicks, -- what about the number of turkey poults being hatched?

ROWELL:

Commercial hatchings of turkey poults continue smaller than last year. Reports from 58 large plants indicate that they hatched only about three-fourths as many in February of this year as a year ago. The number of turkey eggs set, however, during February was only 5 percent less than last year.

KADDERLY:

In other words, there will be a fairly liberal supply of turkey poults available for delivery this month.

ROWELL:

That's right, Wallace, a fairly liberal supply for delivery during March. The turkey report which came out about 2 weeks ago said that for the season as a whole turkey producers plan to raise somewhere between 4 and 5 percent more turkeys this

(over)

year than they did in 1939. This report indicated that farmers would probably buy about 1 percent fewer commercially hatched poultts, with home hatchings more than making up the decrease.

KADDERLY:

Now, let's see, Mike --- you were going to give us some information on egg production --- that was the second item on the list.

ROWELL:

The total February farm production of eggs was about 4 percent less than last year. Probably cold weather and higher feed prices had a lot to do with this, as there were some 4 percent more laying hens and pullets on farms than a year ago.

KADDERLY:

How many pullets and hens of laying age were there on farms in February this year?

ROWELL:

327 million. That compares with 316 million last year.

KADDERLY:

Brief and to the point.

Next - highlights of the cold storage report.

ROWELL:

All right, Wallace, and I'll try to stay away from figures. Cold storage stocks of butter and American cheese on March 1 were at the lowest point in several years.

Stocks of eggs in the shell had about reached the vanishing point.

The apparent net out-of-storage movement of apples for February seems to be about normal.

The stocks of frozen vegetables dropped off sharply during the month. More poultry was taken out of storage during February than is usual during that month.

On the other hand, the quantities of frozen and cured meats and lard in storage continued to increase. The quantity of lard in storage on March 1 was more than double a year ago and the greatest on record.

KADDERLY:

(ad lib conclusion)